Sports: Cal visits Stanford for 120th version of The Big Game. C1

The newspaper of Silicon Valley

The Mercury News

BayArea NewsGroup 111 Volume 167, issue 152 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017 24/7 COVERAGE: MERCURYNEWS.COM » $1.50

UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER

SALMON REVIVAL

Drought's over: Fish returning strong after barge assists, water releases

PHOTOS BY ARIC CRABB — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Employees tend to salmon at the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery in Clements. More than 15,200 salmon have returned to the Upper Mokelumne River so far this fall, on pace to break the modern-day record of 18,000 returning adults.

By Denis Cuff
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EAST OF LODI » Salmon populations in a Central Valley river are on track for record highs after years of suffering through drought, thanks to some clever human intervention.

The new fish-friendly efforts by the state and an East Bay water district may shed light on how to increase California's struggling salmon runs. Salmon suffered in the drought from 2011 to 2015 due to shriveled river flows, higher water temperatures and disrupted food supplies.

But salmon hatched in the drought three years ago are returning this fall to the Mokelumne River — the water supply for the East Bay Municipal Utility District — in big numbers.

"The salmon are doing great on the Mokelumne River fall run, while it's a mixed bag at the hatcheries on other rivers," said Peter Tira, a spokesman for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. "They are doing some innovative things at the hatchery, and it seems to be paying off."

> **"The fish are jumping and doing somersaults to get into the hatchery this fall. You see hundreds churning the water."**
> *— Tracie Morales, an EBMUD spokeswoman*

East Bay water officials said they believe a combination of new measures are producing more fish for the Mokelumne River's fall salmon run, which supplies an estimated 10 to 15

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A salmon jumps toward a fish gate at the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery in Clements.

Salmon eggs are harvested at the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery. The run may last weeks longer.

'FULL EMPLOYMENT'

Bay Area jobs in robust state

Santa Clara County led region in helping to lower jobless rates to best levels in nearly two decades

By George Avalos
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The Bay Area added 7,600 jobs during October, a welcome counterpoint to the past two months of employment losses, and the region's jobless rates improved to their best level in nearly two decades, state labor officials and economists reported Friday.

The upswing, combined with a drop in unemployment rates, suggested the Bay Area's economy is in a robust state as it enters the vital holiday hiring and shopping season.

"There is no doubt at all that we are at full employment," said Stephen Levy, director of the Palo Alto-based Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy.

However, sustaining that generally robust job market could pose plenty of challenges.

"People are employed, wages are going up, but

JOBS » PAGE 2

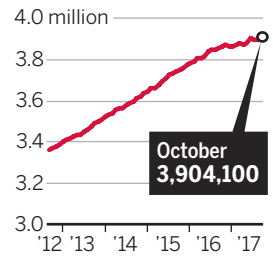
BAY AREA EMPLOYMENT IMPROVES

After two months of employment losses, the region's jobless rates improved in October to their best levels in nearly two decades.

Jobs gained or lost

South Bay	5,900
East Bay	1,600
Marin County	1,200
San Francisco area*	0
Solano County	0
Sonoma County	-100
Napa County	-1,000
Bay Area	**7,600**

Total Bay Area jobs



*San Francisco and San Mateo counties
Sources: State Employment Development Department, Beacon Economics and BANG staff research
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FEINSTEIN IS FURIOUS

'Blue slips' for judges? Practice could be history

Change imperils California senators' ability to resist president's designs

By Casey Tolan
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President Donald Trump could have an easier time appointing conservative judges to California's federal courts under a policy shift in the U.S. Senate this week that is drawing withering criticism from Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said Thursday that he wouldn't necessarily follow the Senate's informal "blue slip" policy, which allows senators to veto judicial nominees in their home states.

That means that Feinstein and fellow Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris won't hold sway over nominees to California's federal courts or Californians nominated to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Instead, the Republican majority in the Senate would be able to confirm Trump's picks.

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HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Storm, crowds to make flying messy

28.5 million Americans predicted to go by air for long Thanksgiving break

By Patrick May, Jason Green and Aaron Davis
Staff writers

Whether you're coming or going, air travel to and from the Bay Area over the Thanksgiving holiday promises to get a little messy.

Maybe not "2016 messy," when storms and record numbers of passengers snarled the region's transit hubs, but messy nonetheless — there's a new storm expected on the West Coast to start the week. But in the Bay Area this year, with some schools taking the entire week off, the getaway is starting early.

Airlines for America, the main trade group for U.S. airlines, is predicting that 28.5 million Americans will fly over a 12-day period around the holiday, an increase of 3 percent over last year. The Sunday after Thanksgiving is supposed to be the busiest travel day, with about 2.9 million people flying, according to the group.

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GARY REYES — STAFF ARCHIVES

Those hoping to fly out of San Jose, San Francisco or Oakland airports for destinations back East or down South should be ready for holiday delays.

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Klay's pregame ritual is to read the paper.

Find out why at KlayKnows.com

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